



Discovery of Auckland Islands by Abraham Bristow in August, 1806

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General Note



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Auckland Islands is a very good landfall by dead reckoning. It lies about 300 miles to the southward of New Zealand. It was discovered by Captain Abraham Bristow on 18th August, 1806 during a whaling voyage in the ship *Ocean*, belonging to Mr Samuel Enderby. It was the largest of New Zealand's subantarctic islands with a combined area of 625 sq km. It have a wide variety of plants and wildlife. Waterfalls are abundance in these islands. The discoverer named the islands after Lord Auckland, in honour of his father's friend William Eden, 1st Baron Auckland and formal possession was taken of them in 1807. The islands extend over 27 miles north and south by 15 miles in breadth and are very mountainous, the altitude of the ranges being from 950 in the north to 2000 feet in the south.

The Auckland Islands are made up of two ancient volcanoes which have been subsequently cut by glaciers. The terrain is rugged and mountainous, with steep cliffs on the western and southern sides and deep valleys with long inlets to the east. Auckland Island is the main island in the group. The group includes many other smaller islands. The largest of these is 10,000ha Adams Island, which lies south of the main island. This is followed by 600ha Enderby Island, 1km north of the main island, and Disappointment Island, 8km west of the main island. The Auckland Islands were officially included in the extended boundaries of New Zealand in 1863. In 1840 several scientific expeditions visited the Auckland Island group and found pigs, cats and mice well established on the main island. In the mid-19th century there were several attempts made to live on the Auckland islands. In 1842 a small group of Maori and their Moriori slaves migrated from the Chatham Islands and created a community there. A few years later, in 1849, Samuel Enderby's grandson, Charles Enderby established a colony at Port Ross, called Hardwicke, which had approximately 200 people.

The Auckland Islands are important seabird breeding grounds. It is the strong hold of the rare yellow-eyed penguin, with a high proportion of the population breeding on Enderby Island. There is also an abundance of albatrosses, penguins and petrels. It have the largest number of subantarctic invertebrates of all New Zealand's subantarctic islands. There are over 200 insects as well as 24 species of spider and 11 species of springtail. The islands also boast an endemic genus and species of weta, *Dendroplectron aucklandensis*. The Auckland Islands have 19 species of endemic freshwater invertebrates. By the 21st century the Auckland Islands had become the primary breeding location of the New Zealand sea lion. The marine environment around the Auckland Islands became a marine mammal sanctuary in 1993 and, unusually, also a marine reserve in 2003. The waters around the Auckland Islands are home to some charismatic and rare marine animals. They are a breeding ground for Southern right whales and important habitat for New Zealand sea lions, and because of this they are classified as a marine mammal sanctuary, as well as a marine reserve.